

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF MORGAN CITY
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2022

The Mayor and City Council of Morgan City, Louisiana, met at 4:00 pm in special session, this date, in the City Hall Conference Room, 512 First Street, Morgan City, Louisiana.

There were present: Honorable Lee Dragna, Mayor; and Council Members Ron Bias, Steve Domangue, Tim Hymel, Mark Stephens and Louis J. Tamporello, Jr.

Absent: None

Also present were Mr. Charlie Solar, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer, Police Chief Chad Adams, Assistant Fire Chief John MacDougall, and Police Captain Betty Augman.

The public notice, posted on the principal front door of the meeting place was read (copy on file).

Mayor Dragna stated that the meeting was being called to discuss any action of how to approach Police and Fire Department payroll issues.

Finance Director Deborah Garber stated that after running all the numbers she felt it would be best to go with at least a 4/10% sales tax which would generate about \$1.1 million, but her recommendation was to have an election on the 5/10% sales tax to fund the Fire and Police Departments.

Mayor Dragna felt the tax issue needed to be publicized in a way that told the story of why the raise was needed. He asked if the Council felt it was worth \$10,000 to \$15,000 to hire a person to promote it and guarantee the tax passed. Police Chief Chad Adams said that he recently spoke at a Rotary Club meeting and he could speak at any of the local meetings to educate people about the proposed tax and what it would pay for. He is scheduled to speak at a Kiwanis meeting early next year.

Councilman Domangue said he would be happy to speak to the AARP because most of those people do not look at Facebook or other social media platforms. Pastor Bias stated that he could speak to the African American ministers in the Parish.

Mr. Tamporello stated that even if the tax passed, the Morgan City sales taxes would still be lower than anyone else.

Mayor Dragna wanted to be sure that the wording of the tax allowed for the monies generated to pay for the election as well as the attorney fees associated with the election. He said the 4/10 percent sales tax comes off of the rolls in June, so there would only be a six-month period of time when both taxes would be on the books. He said he would contact Foley & Judell and move forward with placing a 5/10% sales tax on the next election.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hymel, seconded by Mr. Tamporello, and voted unanimously in favor.

Debbie Harrington
Clerk

Lee Dragna
Mayor